

1      **CLAIMS**

2      What is claimed is:

3      1. A method for synchronizing a system including plural server modules,  
4 comprising:

5            receiving notification information at a first server module regarding a change in  
6 the system;

7            acting on the notification information in the first server module; and

8            propagating the notification information from the first server module to at least a  
9 second server module,

10            wherein the notification information comprises an indication of whether or not at  
11 least one application used by the system is available to service user requests.

12            2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the acting on the notification  
13 information in the first server module comprises:

14            uploading the notification information into at least one application store  
15 associated with at least one respective application provided by the first server module.

16            3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the propagating comprises  
17 transferring the notification information using a first queue provided by the first server  
18 module to a second queue provided by the second server module.

19            4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising acting on the notification  
20 information in the second server module.

1       5. The method according to claim 4, wherein the acting on the notification  
2 information in the second server module comprises uploading the notification  
3 information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective  
4 application provided by the second server module.

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6       6. The method according to claim 1, further including repeating the propagating  
7 for at least one additional server module in the system.

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9       7. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for  
10 implementing the receiving, acting and propagating of claim 1.

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12      8. A method for synchronizing a system including plural server modules,  
13 comprising:  
14           forwarding first status information reflecting a state in a first server module to a  
15 second server module;

16           merging the first status information with second status information, where the  
17 second status information reflects a state of the second server module, to produce merged  
18 information;

19           sending the merged information from the second server module to the first server  
20 module; and

21           acting on the merged information at the first server module.

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23      9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the first and second status  
24 information includes notification information regarding a change in the system.

1           10. The method according to claim 9, wherein the notification information  
2 comprises an indication of whether or not at least one application used by the system is  
3 available to service user requests.

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5           11. The method according to claim 8, wherein the forwarding of first status  
6 information is prompted by the first server module becoming active after having  
7 remained inactive for some time.

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9           12. The method according to claim 8, wherein the merging comprises combining  
10 the first status information with the second status information to provide a non-  
11 duplicative union of the first status information and the second status information.

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13          13. The method according to claim 8, wherein the acting comprises uploading the  
14 merged information into at least one application store associated with at least one  
15 respective application provided by the first server module.

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17          14. The method according to claim 8, further comprising repeating the  
18 forwarding, merging, sending and acting for at least one other server module.

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20          15. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for  
21 implementing the forwarding, merging, sending and acting of claim 8.

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23          16. A method of advising a user of the availability of an application in a system  
24 including plural server modules, comprising:

25           receiving, at a server module in the system, a user's request for an application;

1           consulting an application store associated with the application to determine  
2 whether the application is unavailable, and, if so generating a response; and

3           forwarding the response to the user, wherein each of the plural server modules in  
4 the system maintains its own respective application store.

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6       17. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for  
7 implementing the receiving, consulting and forwarding of claim 16.

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9       18. A synchronization module implemented on a first server module in a system  
10 including plural server modules, comprising:

11           repeater logic configured to:

12           receive notification information pertaining to a change in the system;

13           upload the notification information into at least one application store  
14 associated with at least one respective application; and

15           propagate the notification information from the first server module to at  
16 least a second server module,

17           wherein the notification information uploaded to said at least one application store  
18 comprises an indication of whether or not said at least one application is available to  
19 service user requests.

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21       19. The synchronization module according to claim 18, further including a  
22 message queue, wherein the repeater module is configured to receive the notification  
23 information and propagate the notification information using the message queue.

1           20. The synchronization module according to claim 18, wherein the  
2 synchronization module is configured to propagate the notification information to at least  
3 one other server module in the system.

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5           21. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for  
6 implementing the repeater logic of claim 18.

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8           22. A synchronization module for synchronizing a system including plural server  
9 modules, comprising:

10           merge logic configured to:

11           forward first status information reflecting a state in a first server  
12 module to a second server module; and

13           receive merged information from the second server module,  
14 wherein the merged information reflects a merging of the first status  
15 information with second status information, the second status information  
16 reflecting a state of the second server module; and

17           a repeater module configured to act on the merged information.

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19           23. The synchronization module according to claim 22, wherein the first and  
20 second status information includes notification information regarding a change in the  
21 system.

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23           24. The synchronization module according to claim 23, wherein the notification  
24 information comprises an indication of whether or not at least one application used by the  
25 system is available to service user requests.

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2       25. The synchronization module according to claim 22, wherein the merge logic is  
3 configured to send the first status information when the first server module becomes  
4 active after have remained inactive for a predetermined time.  
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6       26. The synchronization module according to claim 22, wherein the repeater  
7 module is configured to act on the merged information by uploading the merged  
8 information into at least one application store associated with at least one respective  
9 application provided by the first server module.

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11      27. The synchronization module according to claim 22, wherein the merge logic is  
12 configured to repeat the forwarding and receiving for at least one other server module.  
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14      28. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for  
15 implementing the merge logic of claim 22.  
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17      29. A server module for advising a user of the availability of an application in a  
18 system including plural server modules, comprising:  
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20           an application store associated with the application;  
21           logic configured to receive, at a first server module in the system, a user's request  
22 for an application;

23           logic configured to consult the application store to determine whether the  
24 application is unavailable, and, if so, to generate a response; and

25           logic configured to forward the response to the user,

1       wherein each of the plural server modules in the system maintains its own  
2       respective application store.

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4       30. A computer readable medium including machine readable instructions for  
5       implementing the receiving, consulting and forwarding of claim 29.

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